Serial Number: 10/017,800 Filing Date: December 12, 2001

Title: RATE SMOOTHING CONTROL

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 2 as follows:

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/579,951, filed on May 26, 2000, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,501,987, which in turn is a continuation-in-part of and is related to U.S. Patent Application No. 09/570,091, filed May 13, 2000, now abandoned, each of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.